

Appendix G

Natural and Beneficial Floodplain Functions

Water Resources: resources and functions that are part of or provide a benefit to the hydrologic cycles on the earth's surface and below ground

Natural Flood and Erosion Control

Provide flood storage and conveyance
Reduce flood velocities
Reduce flood peaks
Reduce sedimentation

Water Quality Protection

Filter nutrients and impurities from runoff
Process organic wastes
Moderate temperature fluctuations

Groundwater Recharge/Discharge

Promote infiltration and aquifer recharge
Help to maintain natural base flows instream

Biological Resources: resources and functions that benefit plants and animals

Biological Productivity

Support high rate of plant growth
Maintain biodiversity
Maintain integrity

Fish and Wildlife Habitats

Provide breeding and feeding grounds
Create and enhance waterfowl habitat
Protect habitats for rare/endangered species

Societal Resources: resources and functions that directly benefit human society

Harvest of wild and cultivated products

Enhance agricultural lands
Provide sites for aquaculture
Restore and enhance forest lands

Recreational Opportunities

Provide areas for active and passive uses
Provide open space
Provide aesthetic pleasure

Areas for Scientific Study and Outdoor Education

Contain cultural resources (historic and archaeological sites)
Provide opportunities for environmental and other studies

Source: A *Unified National Program for Floodplain Management*, 1994, Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force, FEMA-248.